

Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX
Phil Johnson-CPS LECC
Roy Benavente-Washington EMD
Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle
Clay Freinwald-WSU
Keith Shipman-WSAB

Via phone:

Carri Gordon-WSP
Don White-Tribune
Jon Kasprick-SBE
Dale Kloes-Skagit County EMD
Dennis Hull-NWS Pendleton
Mark Murphy-Snohomish County
Rick Peterson-Click! Network
Allen Rules-Comcast

Ted Buehner called the meeting to order. Clay, and several others, were delayed by traffic on I-5. Introductions were made. The meeting notes for the previous meeting were approved.

EPIS, the Emergency Public Information System, was discussed. The first meeting in January was well attended. The purpose is to prepare for when the communication infrastructure fails during an emergency. Bill Putney gave a demonstration of the system they have in Port Townsend. The local EOC can take control of both local radio stations in an emergency and broadcast emergency information. This took years to set up. Phil has been in discussion with other counties to do something similar. The next meeting will be April 27 at the King County EOC in Renton at 9:30 AM.

Previous SECC minutes are not up on the state EAS web site yet. This will be addressed.

There was a training session with Alert sense at the state EOC for the new web site.

The Central Puget Sound RMT on Monday was originated by NORCOM in Bellevue. But the text said King County at the end. This is being investigated and may be an issue with the updated Alert Sense web site.

A YouTube video for AMBER was distributed on the remailer. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suD91roZLGo>. The WSP is not happy with the web portal they have been using and are looking for a different solution. A training program is in the works for 911 operators.

At the National Weather Service, the Pendleton office is using a new system that can remotely monitor some of its NOAA Weather Radio station transmitters without use of a phone line. The system is self-contained that uses the internet and can receive the targeted nearby transmitter. The Seattle office plans to look into it for use at selected remote NWR sites. In the meantime, Washington EMD is still working on getting a phone line to Octopus for monitoring, but now it may not be needed.

The Portland office noted that Oregon has decided not to use the LAE (Law Area Emergency) EAS event code for tsunami advisories. Other notification efforts such as social media and web site headlines will be used instead.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcast consoles are being replaced by a new system that utilizes a forecaster workstation (AWIPS-2) nationwide through September of this year. NWS Portland has been a test site since late 2015. NWS Seattle, Spokane and Pendleton will have this system in place this summer. The Seattle SAGE ENDEC system using the IPAWS server will remain downstream from this new console and will not be impacted. Portland noted this system's voice is only male - no female voice.

There is a small group working on the response to the recent FCC NPRM on EAS. Download the NPRM here: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-16-5A1.pdf. Note that the Washington State plan is used as a model for what a state plan should look like. This NPRM could have a big impact with the FCC expanding its sphere of influence beyond licensees. This will impact every broadcast station. One proposal is that one person will be designated for EAS compliance at each station. Cable will be impacted, too. There will be reporting requirements for STB lockouts. Also, the commission is asking if force tuning should continue. Should cable systems be required to not interrupt broadcast stations for EAS alerts? This could be a very costly and technical complicated requirement. The group meets regularly, currently on Tuesday evening. Watch the remailer for details.

The FCC Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (CSRIC) has a committee working on a new EAS Handbook to replace the current one from 2007. The revision will be a big improvement. There will be one handbook instead of separate ones for broadcast and cable.

Dwight Small has retired from ENTERCOM, Don Peters from WSU/NWPR, and Tom McGinley from CBS Radio. Tim Schall has changed employers but is still in Central Washington.

Kelsey Black is now the SE Idaho LECC Chair.

The Colorado SECC has dissolved. The state broadcasters association is looking for a solution.

TAB 11, the RMT Test Schedule has been posted to the state EAS web site with improvements recommended by Chris Moores. It is important for originators to keep to the RMT schedule. Many stations will use their spot inventory to run a scheduled test. Small stations, especially, do not have the personnel to staff their studios all the time. EAS is considered a regulatory obligation. Keith Shipman will be getting feedback from station management for the NPRM.

The Franklin County local plan is done. The link will also be posted on the state web site.

Clay is reaching out to amateur radio with meetings on April 2 (BEAS-Boeing hams) and April 9 (Communications Academy).

An update to TAB 1 has been distributed on the remailer. If there are no further changes it will be put on the state web site.

State EM is in the process of approving IPAWS access for Snohomish County.

TAB 19 (Cable) still needs revision. Comcast is still working on this, although it is a slow process. Emergency managers do not always understand the details about how signals are distributed or processed. That is why we need accurate TABs.

The next meeting will be in Ellensburg at the DNR facility near the airport on May 11 at 9:30 AM. Directions and details will be on the remailer.